

hard to kepe theym beyng in syght, specially the lower waye. And also of thole, that hadde eschaped unto the playne, they, whyche hadde bene at the siege frome the begynnyng, for that, that they hadde knowlaidge of the places sauad theymselfe in their campe. But they that were newly come, coulde not kepe the waye, but rather wente wandryng throughe the feides, who beyng parcepued by the horsmen their ennemyes, after that it was daye, were all slayne. The daye followinge the Syracusayns reysedde vp twoo Trophees, to wytt, the one at the entryng of Epipole, and the oþer in the place, where the Thebayns made the fuste resistance. And the Athenians, confessyng unto theyme the victoþe, demandedde their deade men whiche were in ryght greate nomber, but yet there was founde mucþe more harunes, than there were deade people, for that, that those, whyche fledde in the nyght, by the smaller rockes, and were constrained to leape frome a greate heighe downe, in manye places dydde caste of their harness for to be more easye, whereby there were manye, whyche sauadde theymself.

Howe the Athenians after ma-

nye consultations, beinge determyned to reyse vp their
siege, and to departe fromethence, taryedde stillyngh
a superstition.

¶ The ix. Chapter.

This unþoped victory caused the Syracusayns to reconer and take agayne both herte and audacie, as bisore tyme, whereby vnderstandinge that the Agragantyns were in some diuision amongst themselfe, they sente thider Sycanus, for to essaye whider that he coulde iþthdawe theym to their alliance. On the other syde Gylippus went by lande unto the cties of Scyille, for to demande of theyme renforcement or newe succours of men, hopyng by meane thereof, and for the victory, which the Syracusains had had at Epipole, to take the walles of the Athenians by force. During this time, the Dukes and chiefeoste of the armye of the Athenians were in greate sorowe, consideryng the ouerþrowe that they had receyuedde by the incomodite of the campe, and of the armye whiche was in liche necessarie, that all generallie were greued and werye of that same siege, specially bycause that it was all full of maladies, and diseases, by twoo reasongs. The one, for the seasone of the yeare, which was than moste subiected to diseases. The oþere by reasone of the place, where the campe was, for there were marrasses and lowe places, and in the resse verreye incomodious. For the whiche reasones, Demosthenes was of opynyon that men ought not to tarye there. For sithens that yt was myshappenedde of the enterþyle of Epipole, whyche he hadde made, yt semedde to hym better for to departe fromethence, than for to tarye there, for somuche as the sea was than good, and by reasone of the shypes whiche he hadde broughte, he was more stonge by sea, than the ennemyes. And on the oþere syde ytt semedde unto hym more conuenient and more necessarye to laylie for to defende their proper lande, where the ennemyes hadde enclosedde and fortesyedde a towne: than to consume the tyme and a greate quantitye of monney at the siege of a towne in a farre countrey, whereby there was no hope to take ytt. Siche was the opynyon of Demosthenes. But Nycyas, althoughe that he knewe all thies

¶ ii.

difficulties,

The Seuenth boke of

difficulties, yett he woulde not confesse theyme publiquely in tthat same assemblie, nother agree that the siege shoulde be ceased and brokene of, fearynge leaste yt shoule come to the knowlage of the ennemyes. And mozeouer he hadde yet somme hope, for that that he knewe the affaires of the cytie better than anny of hys collegues and compaignions, and considered that the length of the siege was more to the disaduantage of the Syracusayns than vnto theirs, for that that they consumedde so muche monney, markedde specially the greate armye, whiche they lusteignedde by sea. And also that same Nycyas hadde secrete intelligence and confederacion bythsome of the towne whiche wylledde hym secretly, that he shoulde not dislodge. For all the whyche respectes he maigntedde the matter and interruptedde the opynyon of those, that woulde that the siege shoulde haue bene reyledde, attendyng what myghte chance, and sayed openly that men oughte not to breake yt, and that he woulde never consente thereto for somuche as he knewe welle, that if they shoulde doo yt wythoute lycence of the Athenians, they woulde not be therewith contentedde. And that those whyche shulde iudge vpon them whyder they hadde done wellle or euill, shulde not be of theyme that hadde bene in the campe, and that hadde sene the necessities of the armye: but they shoulde be othere people, whiche woulde not geue sayth to that, whiche the souldyars woulde saye: but soner to those, whiche shulde accuse theyme and charge theyme by sought or studyed meanes. And chiefly the moste parte of those same souldyars which were there and cryed that men ought to departe, whan they were retourned to Athenis, woulde saye wholy otherwyse, to wytt, that they hadde not bene of the opynyon for to departe, but rather that the Dukes had bene corrupted for money, wherfore he, whiche knewe the nature of the Athenians, woulde not put himself in hazarde to be condempned, as slouthfull and naughte but he loued muche better to endure the danger of his parsonne agaynst the ennemys, if nede requyredit. And bysydes that, he shewed the that the ennemys were in muche woorse estate than they, for somuch as they were at great charge and expences for to waage huyzed souldyars and also for to enterseigne one so great an army by sea which they had already lusteigned one whole yeare for to warde, and defende the townes of their aliyance, & also were in great necessities of vittuailles and of all other thynges, in liche sorte, that it shulde be impossible for theym to lusteigne longer that charges. For he knewe for trouthe that they had already spente more than twoo thowlande talentes and also were yet in great debte, and that if they failled never so lytle in payment of the huyzed souldiars, they shoulde be destroyed, for their force was moze of estrangers than of their oune people, whiche ching was all otherwyse among them, wherfore he concluded that they oughte to continue the siege and not to departe frome yt, as though they were most nedye and lacking monney, where as they were much better fournysshed therof. Suche was the speaking of Nycias, having for right certaine the necessarie of the ennemys, chiefly of monney, and also groundyng him selfe, vpon that, whiche, they, wyth whome he had intelligence and confederacion in the towne, had required of hym, to wytt, that no man shulde remoue, and trusyng mozeouer in the armye by sea whiche they than had muche more puissant, than whan that he was vanquished, bisore that the renforcie or newe succours was arryued. Notwithstading Demosthenes perseuered styll in hys opynyon to reise the siege and for to departe from thence into Grece. And although it was deuyled not to remoue out of the sayd countrey wythoute lycence, yet he was of opynyon that they shulde retyre to Thapsus or to Catana. Out of whiche places they myght come for to oueronne & pillage the lande of the ennemys and well enterteigne